



US012146261B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Yoon et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 12,146,261 B2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Nov. 19, 2024**

(54) **LAUNDRY TREATMENT APPARATUS**

(71) Applicant: **LG ELECTRONICS INC.**, Seoul (KR)

(72) Inventors: **Taejun Yoon**, Seoul (KR); **Sunyong Kim**, Seoul (KR); **Hyongsup Park**, Seoul (KR); **Junyoung Nam**, Seoul (KR)

(73) Assignee: **LG ELECTRONICS INC.**, Seoul (KR)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **18/221,523**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 13, 2023**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2023/0357983 A1 Nov. 9, 2023

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 17/379,348, filed on Jul. 19, 2021, now Pat. No. 11,713,541, which is a (Continued)

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Nov. 11, 2016 (KR) 10-2016-0150162

(51) **Int. Cl.**

D06F 71/36 (2006.01)
D06F 58/10 (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **D06F 71/36** (2013.01); **D06F 58/10** (2013.01); **D06F 71/02** (2013.01); **D06F 71/34** (2013.01); **D06F 71/40** (2013.01); **D06F 73/02** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC D06F 71/36; D06F 71/34; D06F 71/40; D06F 58/10; D06F 73/02; D06F 71/02; (Continued)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

1,251,402 A 12/1917 Miller et al.
1,325,308 A 12/1919 Riddle
(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN 2126854 Y 2/1993
CN 1170061 A 1/1998
(Continued)

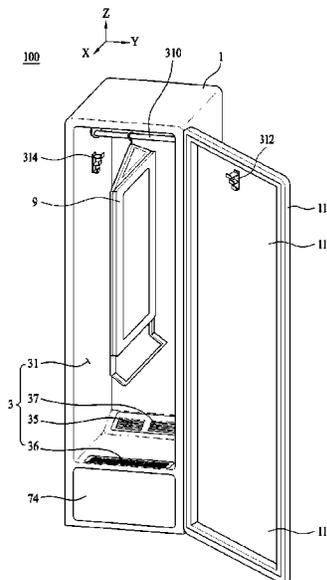
Primary Examiner — Ismael Izaguirre

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A laundry treatment apparatus is disclosed. The laundry treatment apparatus includes a cabinet having an accommodation space formed therein to accommodate laundry, a laundry support member provided in the accommodation space, and a presser mounted to the laundry support member and configured to apply pressure to laundry to remove wrinkles from laundry. The presser includes a support part for supporting one surface of laundry, a hanger hook configured to be hung on the laundry support member, and a press part hingedly connected to the support part to apply pressure to the opposite surface of laundry.

16 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

continuation of application No. 16/546,730, filed on Aug. 21, 2019, now Pat. No. 11,098,439, which is a continuation of application No. 15/809,119, filed on Nov. 10, 2017, now Pat. No. 10,563,345.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

D06F 71/02 (2006.01)
D06F 71/34 (2006.01)
D06F 71/40 (2006.01)
D06F 73/02 (2006.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC A47G 25/14; A47G 25/20; A47G 25/32;
A47G 25/48; A47G 25/72
See application file for complete search history.

(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,290,807 A 12/1966 Esaka
4,611,419 A 9/1986 Duplessy A47G 25/72
38/21
5,305,484 A 4/1994 Fitzpatrick et al.
5,815,961 A 10/1998 Estes et al.
7,305,856 B2 12/2007 Bolduan D06F 17/04
68/5 C
9,309,618 B2 4/2016 Park D06F 58/10
10,563,345 B2* 2/2020 Yoon D06F 71/36
11,098,439 B2* 8/2021 Yoon D06F 71/02

11,713,541 B2* 8/2023 Yoon D06F 58/10
38/12
2004/0112095 A1 6/2004 Bolduan et al.
2010/0282785 A1 11/2010 Roselle D06F 58/203
223/61
2012/0018461 A1 1/2012 Azizian D06F 73/02
223/66
2012/0317729 A1* 12/2012 Song D06F 58/10
68/6
2015/0020419 A1 1/2015 Park et al.
2015/0159315 A1 6/2015 Lim D06F 58/10
38/3
2016/0208429 A1* 7/2016 Park D06F 71/02

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN 104294529 A 1/2015
CN 104805634 A 7/2015
DE 9301574 U1 3/1993
EP 2826911 A1 1/2015
JP 0568795 A 3/1993
JP 10314500 A * 12/1998
JP 2000-300896 A 10/2000
KR 10-2010-0022798 A 3/2010
KR 1020110048344 A 5/2011
KR 20120091799 A * 8/2012
KR 1020120091799 A 8/2012
KR 1020150009718 A 1/2015
WO 9402057 A1 2/1994
WO 2010126926 A2 11/2010
WO WO-2016071865 A1 * 5/2016 A47G 25/20

* cited by examiner

FIG. 1

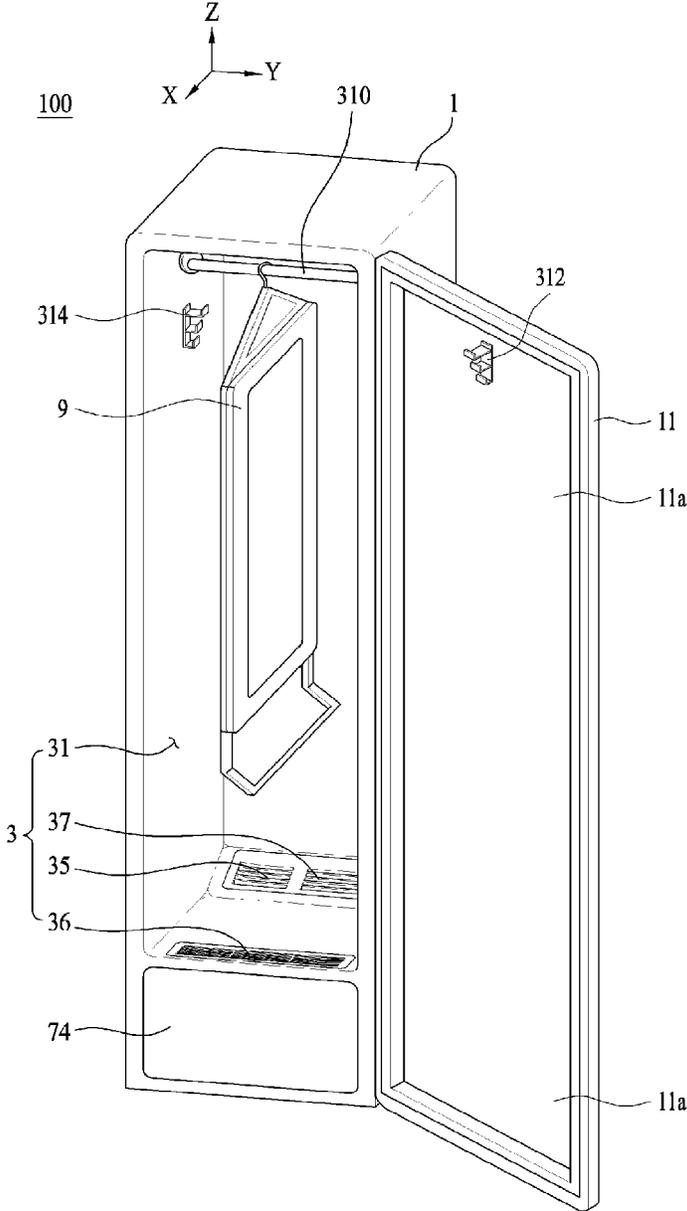


FIG. 2

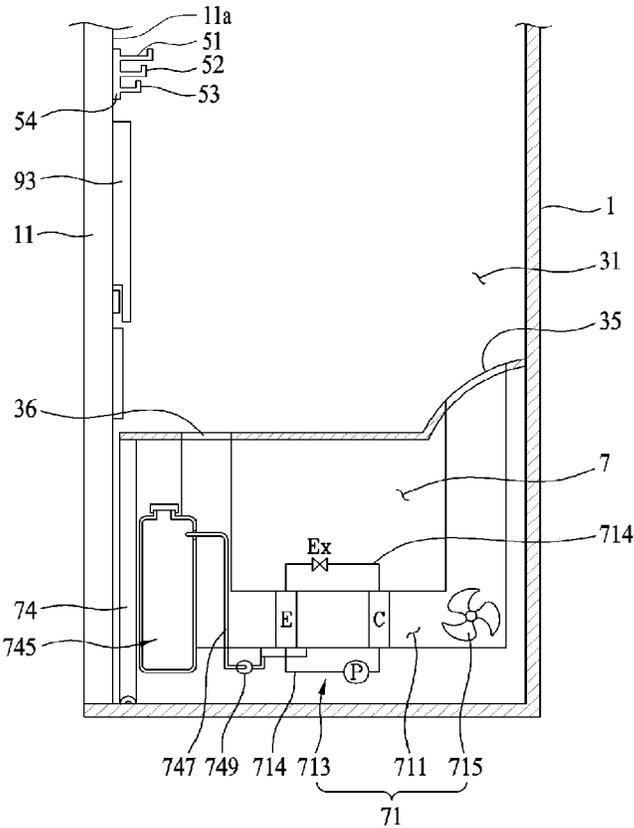


FIG. 3

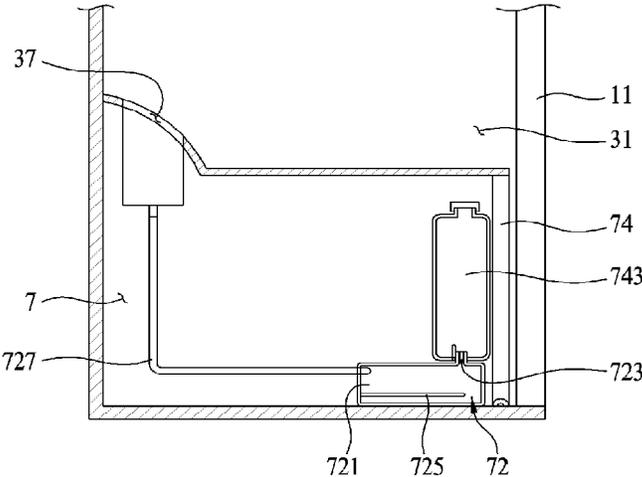


FIG. 4

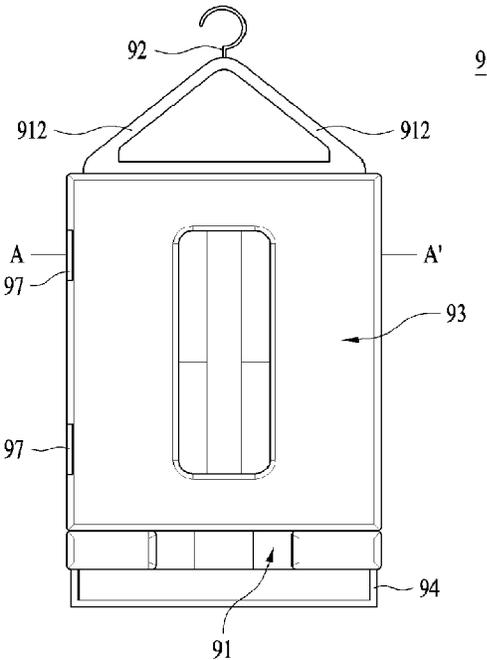


FIG. 5

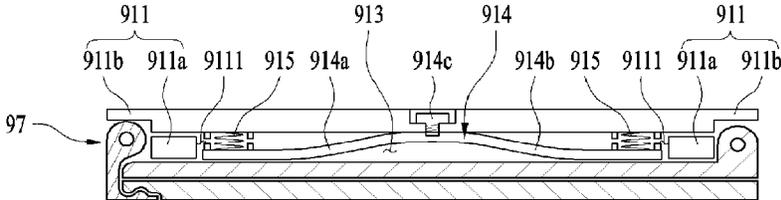


FIG. 6

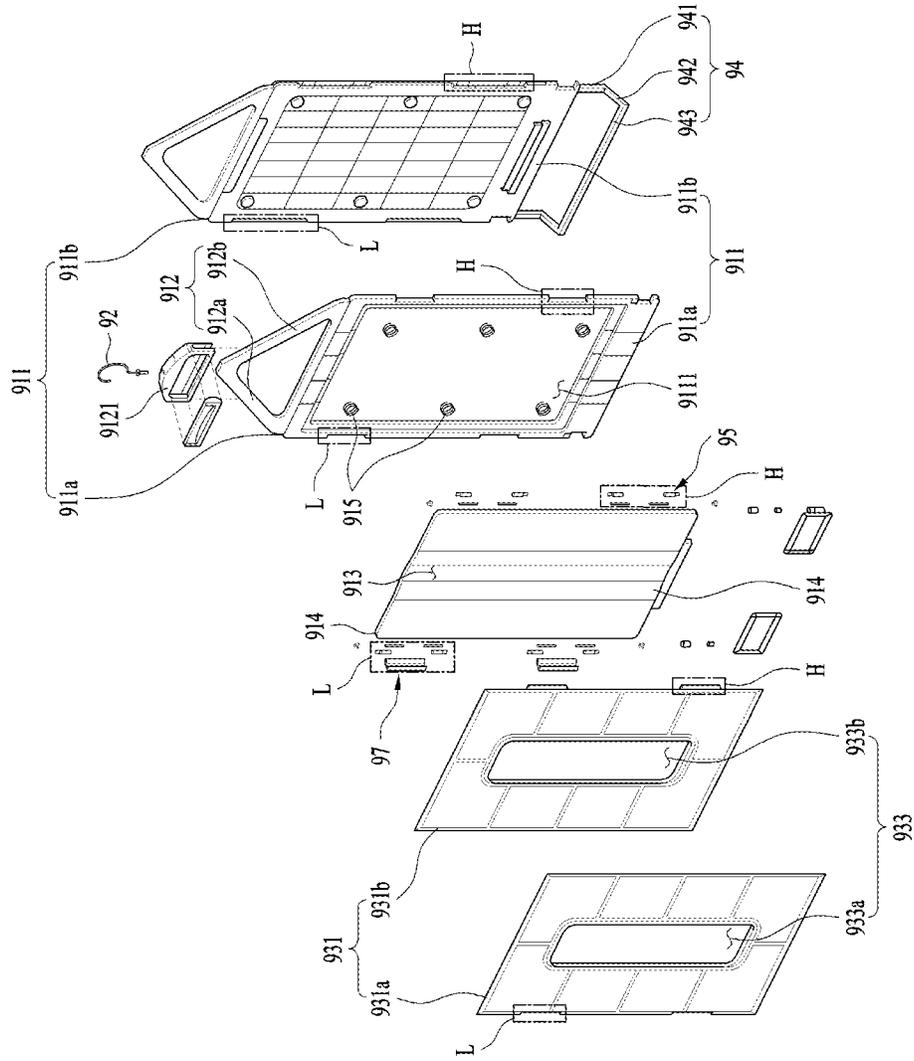


FIG. 7

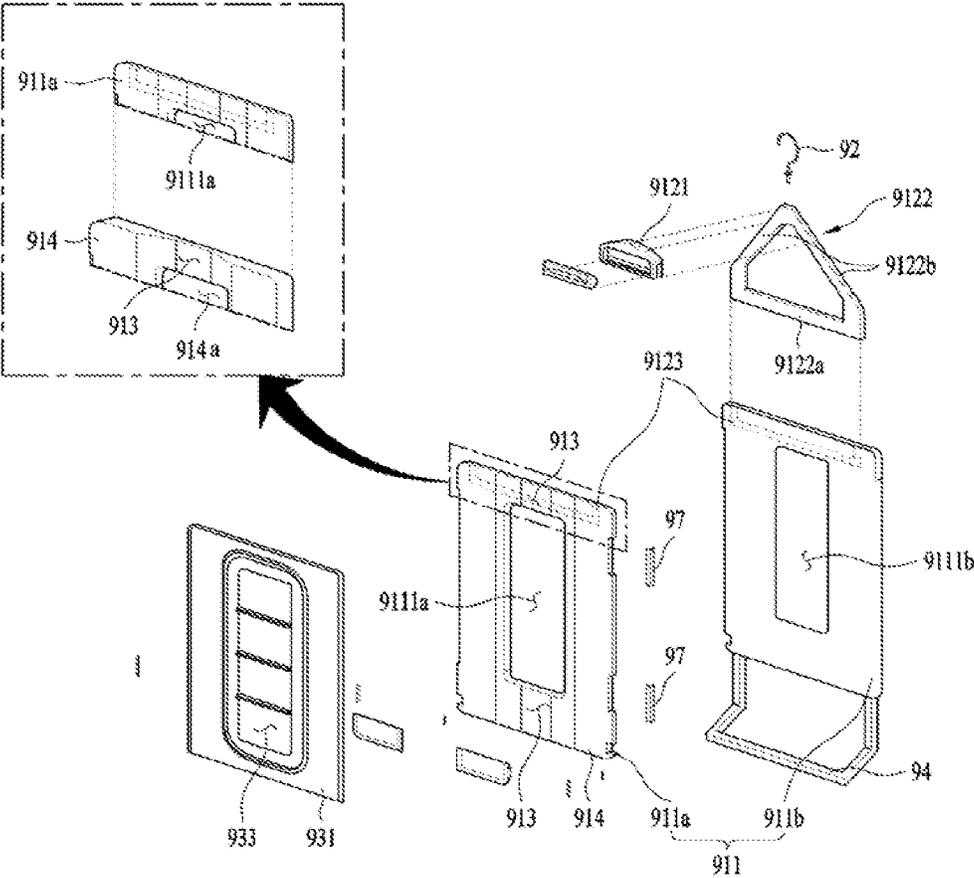


FIG. 8

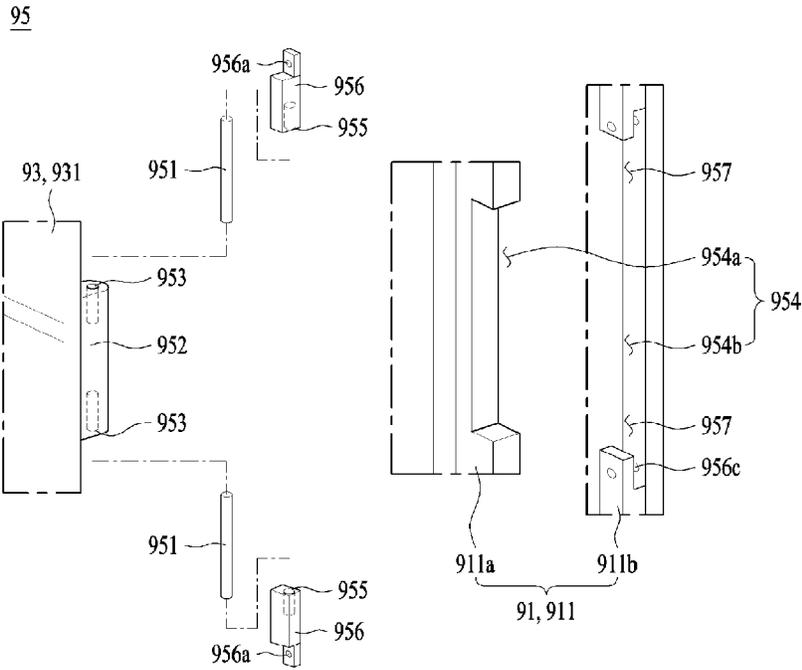


FIG. 9A

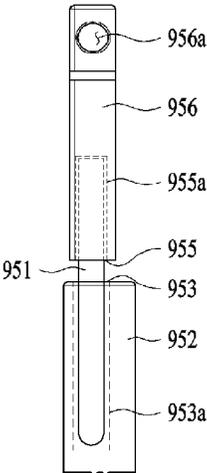


FIG. 9B

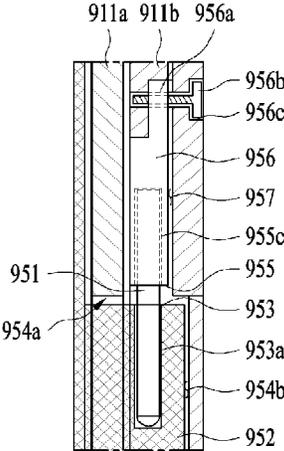


FIG. 10

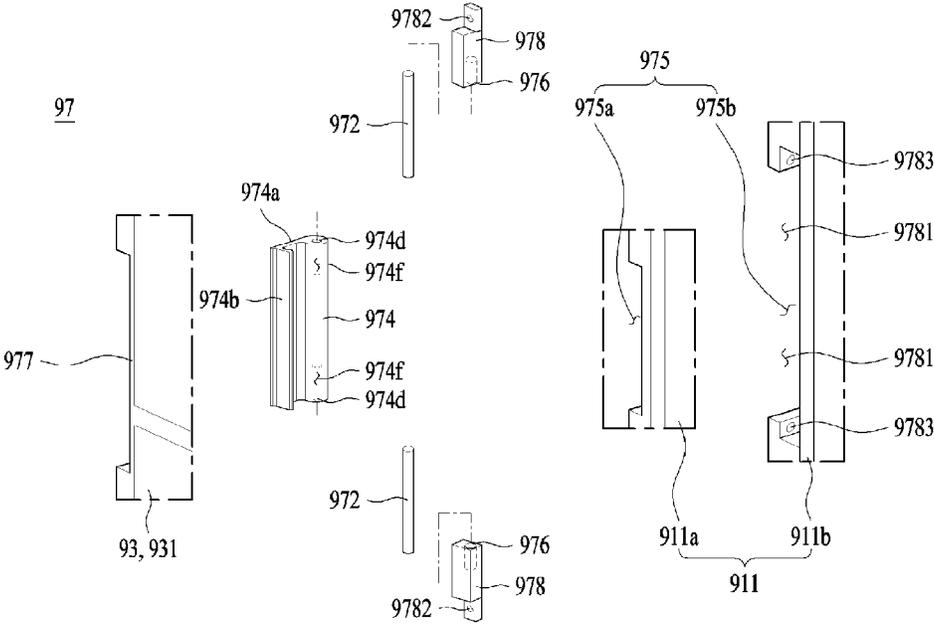
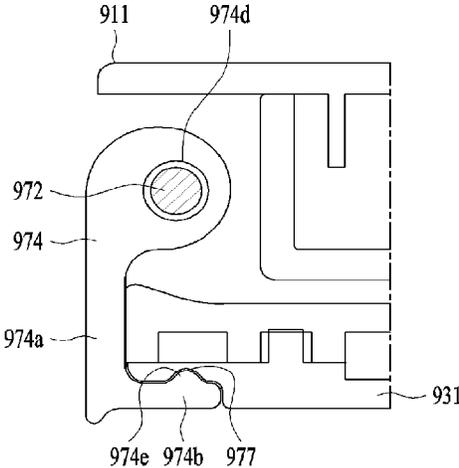


FIG. 11



LAUNDRY TREATMENT APPARATUS

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/379,348, filed Jul. 19, 2021, now allowed, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 16/546,730, filed Aug. 21, 2019, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,098,439 issued Aug. 4, 2021, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 15/809,119, filed Nov. 10, 2017, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,563,345 issued Feb. 18, 2020, which claims priority to and the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2016-0150162, filed on Nov. 11, 2017, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a laundry treatment apparatus.

Discussion of the Related Art

Generally, laundry treatment apparatuses refer to apparatuses that perform a variety of operations related to laundry (washing, drying, deodorization, wrinkle removal, and the like). Examples of laundry treatment apparatuses include washing machines that wash, rinse and dry laundry, drying machines that dry wet laundry, and refreshers for deodorization of, and removal of wrinkles from, laundry.

Conventional laundry treatment apparatuses include a drum, in which laundry is received, and perform washing, drying and refreshing through rotation of the drum. However, such conventional laundry treatment apparatuses are problematic in that a user cannot wear the laundry immediately after taking the same out of the drum due to wrinkles, in that frequent washing using wash water causes damage to the laundry, and in that energy consumption is high due to the operation of a motor for rotating the drum.

In order to solve the above problems, laundry treatment apparatuses, from which a tub for storing wash water or a rotary drum is removed and which performs washing, drying and refreshing by supplying steam or hot air to laundry hung on a hanger, have been developed. Laundry treatment apparatuses may include a presser for putting a crease in laundry or removing wrinkles from laundry.

However, conventional laundry treatment apparatuses are configured such that a presser is fixedly mounted to a door, making it impossible to move the position of the presser.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a laundry treatment apparatus that substantially obviates one or more problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

An object of the present invention is to provide a laundry treatment apparatus, which is capable of performing washing, drying, deodorization, sterilization and wrinkle removal of laundry.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a laundry treatment apparatus, which removes wrinkles from laundry and applies pressure to laundry so as to sharpen a crease formed in the laundry.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a laundry treatment apparatus, which includes a presser that is removably mounted thereto so that the position of the presser may be moved.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a laundry treatment apparatus, which includes a presser that is greatly reduced in thickness so that the position of the presser may be efficiently moved in the inner space in the laundry treatment apparatus.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a laundry treatment apparatus, which includes a presser that is removably mounted to a laundry support member.

Additional advantages, objects, and features of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and in part will become apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art upon examination of the following or may be learned from practice of the invention. The objectives and other advantages of the invention may be realized and attained by the structure particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof as well as the appended drawings.

To achieve the object and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, a laundry treatment apparatus includes a cabinet having an accommodation space formed therein to accommodate laundry, a laundry support member provided in the accommodation space, and a presser mounted to the laundry support member and configured to apply pressure to laundry to remove wrinkles from laundry, wherein the presser includes a support part for supporting one surface of laundry, a hanger hook configured to be hung on the laundry support member, and a press part hingedly connected to the support part to apply pressure to the opposite surface of laundry.

The hanger hook may be provided at an extension portion, integrally formed at the support part, and may extend upwards from the support part.

The laundry treatment apparatus may further include a laundry-fixing member for fixing laundry to the presser.

The laundry treatment apparatus may further include a separation frame provided at the presser to form a gap between the presser and an inner surface of the accommodation space.

The laundry treatment apparatus may further include a hinge structure for connecting the support part and the press part, and the hinge structure may include a hinge shaft extending in the height direction of the presser, a hinge support portion protruding a predetermined length from the press part, a first hinge hole formed in the hinge support portion so as to allow one end portion of the hinge shaft to be inserted therinto, a hinge insertion portion concavely formed with a predetermined length in the support part so as to allow the hinge support portion to be inserted therinto, and a second hinge hole formed in the hinge insertion portion so as to allow the opposite end portion of the hinge shaft to be inserted therinto.

The hinge structure may further include a hinge bracket having therein the second hinge hole and a bracket seat portion formed in the support part so as to allow the hinge bracket to be seated therein.

The hinge bracket may have therein a bracket-fixing hole, the bracket-fixing hole may communicate with a bracket through-hole formed in the support part, and a bracket-fixing member may be fastened to the support part through the bracket through-hole and the bracket-fixing hole so that the hinge bracket is secured to the bracket seat portion.

The laundry treatment apparatus may further include a locking structure for locking a free end of the press part to the support part, and the locking structure may include a locking hinge shaft extending in the height direction of the presser, a locking body having therein a first locking hinge

3

hole for receiving one end portion of the locking hinge shaft inserted therein, the locking body being configured to rotate relative to the support part, a locking extension portion extending from the locking body toward the press part and configured to be locked to the press part, a locking insertion portion concavely formed in the support part so as to allow the locking body to be inserted therein, and a second locking hinge hole formed in the locking insertion portion so as to allow the opposite end portion of the locking hinge shaft to be inserted therein.

The locking structure may further include a locking bracket having therein the second locking hinge hole and a locking bracket seat portion formed in the support part so as to allow the locking bracket to be seated therein.

The locking bracket may have therein a locking-bracket-fixing hole, the locking-bracket-fixing hole may communicate with a locking-bracket through-hole formed in the support part, and a fixing member may be fastened to the support part through the locking-bracket-fixing hole and the locking-bracket through-hole so that the locking bracket is secured to the locking bracket seat portion.

The locking extension portion may include a first locking protrusion and a second locking protrusion protruding toward the press part so as to be fitted into a locking recess formed in the press part.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description of the present invention are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this application, illustrate embodiment(s) of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principle of the invention. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a view illustrating a laundry treatment apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 2 and 3 are sectional views of the laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a front view of a presser provided at the laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is an exploded perspective view of one embodiment of the presser provided at the laundry treatment apparatus of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is an exploded perspective view of another embodiment of the presser provided at the laundry treatment apparatus of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is an enlarged exploded perspective view of a hinge structure, which is denoted by "H" in FIG. 6;

FIG. 9A is view showing the state in which both end portions of a hinge shaft are inserted into a hinge bracket and a hinge support portion;

FIG. 9B is a view showing the state in which the hinge bracket is inserted and seated in a bracket seat portion;

FIG. 10 is an enlarged exploded perspective view of a locking structure, which is denoted by "L" in FIG. 6; and

FIG. 11 is a sectional view of the locking structure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Hereinafter, exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the

4

accompanying drawings. Meanwhile, the configuration of an apparatus or a control method of the apparatus, which will be described below, is merely given to describe the embodiments of the present invention, and is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention. The same reference numerals used throughout the specification refer to the same constituent elements.

FIG. 1 is a view illustrating a laundry treatment apparatus according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Hereinafter, the laundry treatment apparatus of the present invention will be described with reference to FIG. 1.

The laundry treatment apparatus 100 of the present invention may include a cabinet 1, a laundry accommodation unit 3, which is provided in the cabinet to accommodate laundry therein, a door 11, which is hingedly connected to the cabinet 1 in order to open or close the accommodation space 31, and a laundry support member for supporting laundry in the accommodation space 31.

The cabinet 1 may form the external appearance of the laundry treatment apparatus 100, and may be formed in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped.

The laundry accommodation unit 3 may include an accommodation space 31, which is provided in the cabinet 1 to accommodate laundry therein.

The laundry support members may include at least one of a first laundry support member 310, which is provided in the accommodation space 31, a second laundry support member 312, which is provided at the door 11, and a third laundry support member 314, which is provided at an inner surface 31a of the accommodation space 31.

The first laundry support member 310 may take the form of a bar that extends in the width direction of the accommodation space 31 (i.e. in the width direction of the door 11 or in the Y-axis direction).

The second laundry support member 312 may be provided at the inner surface of the door 11 to allow laundry to be placed in the accommodation space 31 while being kept spread.

The third laundry support member 314 may be affixed to at least one of the rear surface, the left surface and the right surface, which constitute the inner surface 31a of the accommodation space 31, to allow laundry to be placed in the accommodation space 31 while being kept spread.

FIGS. 2 and 3 are sectional views of the laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 2, the second laundry support member 312 may include a base 54 affixed to the door 11 and one or more support pieces 51, 52 and 53 protruding from the base 54 and arranged in the height direction of the door 11 (i.e. in the Z-axis direction).

The laundry treatment apparatus 100 may include a machine room 7, which is provided in the cabinet 1 so as to be isolated from the accommodation space 31, and a supply unit, which is provided in the machine room 7 to supply at least one of air and moisture to the laundry accommodation unit.

The machine room 7 may be positioned below the accommodation space 31.

Air supplied to the accommodation space 31 by the supply unit may be heated air (or hot air), and moisture supplied to the accommodation space 31 by the supply unit may be steam.

The supply unit may include at least one of an air supply unit 71 for supplying air (heated air or unheated air) to the

accommodation space 31 and a moisture supply unit for supplying moisture (steam or mist) to the accommodation space 31.

Hereinafter, for convenience of description, it is assumed that the supply unit includes both the air supply unit 71 and the moisture supply unit 72, the air supply unit 71 supplies hot air to the accommodation space 31, and the moisture supply unit 72 supplies steam to the accommodation space 31.

The air supply unit 71 may include a circulation duct 711 for circulation of internal air in the accommodation space 31, a heat exchanger 713 for heat exchange with air moving through the circulation duct 711, and a blower 715 for movement of internal air in the accommodation space 31 through the circulation duct 711.

The circulation duct 711 communicates with the interior of the accommodation space 31 through an air discharge port 35 and an air suction port 36, which are provided at the accommodation space 31, and internal air in the accommodation space sequentially circulates through the air suction port, the circulation duct, the air discharge port and the accommodation space.

The air discharge port 35 and the air suction port 36 are formed so as to penetrate the bottom of the accommodation space 31. The circulation duct 711 mounted in the machine room 7 is connected at one end thereof to the air suction port 36 and at the other end thereof to the air discharge port 35.

The heat exchanger 713 serves to dehumidify and heat air introduced into the circulation duct 711. The heat exchanger 713 may take the form of a heat pump; however, the heat exchanger in the laundry treatment apparatus of the present invention is not limited to a heat pump.

The heat exchanger 713 may include an evaporator E disposed in the circulation duct 711, a condenser C disposed in the circulation duct 711, a compressor P disposed outside the circulation duct 711, and an expansion device Ex disposed outside the circulation duct 711. The evaporator E, the compressor P, the condenser C, and the expansion device Ex are connected to one another via refrigerant tubes 714.

The compressor P serves to compress refrigerant to a high pressure to allow the refrigerant to be circulated through the refrigerant tubes 714. The evaporator E serves to evaporate the refrigerant by absorbing heat from air within the circulation duct 711. The condenser C serves to condense the refrigerant by discharging heat to the air within the circulation duct 711.

The blower 715 is located in the circulation duct 711 and serves to cause circulation of the internal air in the accommodation space 31 through the circulation duct 711. The blower 715 may be located between the condenser C and the air discharge port 35.

When the blower 715 is operated, the air within the circulation duct 711 moves to the accommodation space 31 through the air discharge port 35, and the air within the accommodation space 31 moves to the circulation duct 711 through the air suction port 36.

The air introduced into the circulation duct 711 through the air suction port 36 is cooled while passing through the evaporator E, and in turn, the air having passed through the evaporator E is heated while passing through the condenser C.

When the air is cooled while passing through the evaporator E, moisture contained in the air is removed (dehumidification), and the moisture removed from the air (condensed water) remains on the surface of the evaporator E or within the circulation duct 711.

The laundry treatment apparatus 100 may include a drain unit for removing condensed water generated by the evaporator E. The drain unit serves to prevent the heat exchange efficiency of the heat exchanger 713 from being deteriorated due to the condensed water remaining in the circulation duct 711.

The drain unit may include a drain tank 745, which is removably mounted to the machine room door 74, and a drain pipe 747 and a drain pump 749, which serve to supply the condensed water from the circulation duct 711 to the drain tank 745.

Meanwhile, as is exemplarily shown in FIG. 3, the moisture supply unit 72 may include a reservoir 721 disposed in the machine room 7, a heater 725 disposed in the reservoir 721, and a moisture supply pipe 727 connecting the reservoir 721 to a moisture discharge port 37.

The reservoir 721 serves to store water therein. The heater 725 serves to heat the water stored in the reservoir 721 to convert the water into steam. The moisture supply pipe 727 serves to guide steam from the reservoir 721 to the accommodation space 31.

The reservoir 721 receives water via a water supply unit. The water supply unit may include a water supply tank 743, which is removably mounted to the machine room door 74.

The reservoir 721 may be provided with a connection pipe 723, which is connected to the water supply tank 743 when the machine room door 74 closes the machine room 7 and which is separated from the water supply tank 743 when the machine room door 74 opens the machine room 7.

The reason why the water supply tank 743 is removably mounted to the machine room door 74 is that the laundry treatment apparatus 100 according to the present invention may be installed at a position distant from a water supply source (not shown).

The laundry treatment apparatus 100 according to the present invention is configured to supply hot air or steam while keeping laundry spread within the accommodation space 31, thereby preventing the laundry from being wrinkled after steam or hot air is completely supplied thereto.

FIG. 4 is a front view of the presser provided at the laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention.

The presser of the laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to FIG. 4.

The laundry treatment apparatus 100 may include a presser 9, which is provided in the laundry accommodation unit to remove wrinkles from laundry or form a crease in laundry (refer to FIG. 1).

The presser 9 may be configured to press laundry in order to remove wrinkles from laundry or sharpen a crease formed in laundry. The presser 9 may be removably mounted to the laundry support member.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of FIG. 4. FIG. 6 is an exploded perspective view of one embodiment of the presser provided at the laundry treatment apparatus of the present invention.

The presser 9 may include a support part 91, which supports one surface of laundry, a hanger hook 92, which is hung on the laundry support member 310, 312 or 314, and a press part 93, which is hingedly connected to the support part 91 to apply pressure to the opposite surface of the laundry.

The hanger hook 92 may be provided at the upper end of the support part 91. The hanger hook takes the form of a

hook that can be hung on at least one of the first to third laundry support members, and serves to support the loads of the presser and the laundry.

In addition, the hanger hook **92** may be provided at an extension portion **912**, which is integrally formed at the support part **91** and extends upwards therefrom. The extension portion **912** may include a first extension portion **912a** and a second extension portion **912b**, which extend from both sides of the upper end of the support part in an inclined manner so as to meet each other. The hanger hook **92** may be provided at the portion at which the first extension portion and the second extension portion meet each other. However, the extension portion is not limited to the above configuration, and may be configured to extend from the middle of the upper end of the support part.

The laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment may include a laundry-fixing member **9121** for fixing laundry to the presser **9**.

The laundry-fixing member **9121** may be provided at the portion of the extension portion **912** at which the first extension portion **912a** and the second extension portion **912b** meet each other, and may take the form of a clip. The laundry-fixing member **9121** may serve to support the lower end of trousers such that the upper end of the trousers is oriented downwards by gravity. The upper end of the trousers may be pressed between the support part and the press part so that wrinkles may be removed therefrom.

The laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment may include a separation frame **94**, which is provided at the presser **9** in order to form a gap between the presser **9** and the inner surface of the accommodation space.

When the presser **9** is mounted in the accommodation space and hot air or steam is supplied to laundry, the steam condenses into water on the inner surface of the accommodation space or the inner surface of the door. If the presser **9** is in contact with the inner surface of the accommodation space, there may occur a problem in that laundry is wet by water. This problem is prevented by the separation frame **94**, which separates the presser **9** from the inner surface of the accommodation space or the inner surface of the door.

The separation frame **94** may be provided at the lower end of the support part, may be configured to be movable upwards and downwards with respect to the support part, and may be formed to be bent forward or backward from the presser so that the presser is spaced a predetermined distance apart from the inner surface of the accommodation space. The separation frame **94** may include a first frame **941**, which is configured to be movable upwards and downwards so as to be inserted into or withdrawn out of the support part, a second frame **942**, which is bent at the distal end of the first frame at a predetermined angle in the forward or backward direction of the presser, and a third frame **943**, which extends horizontally from the distal end of the second frame in the lateral direction (the width direction) of the separation frame.

The support part **91** may include a support body **911**, which forms the external appearance of the support part, and a support plate **914**, which is disposed in front of the support body **911** to support one surface of laundry.

The support body **911** may be formed in the shape of a rectangle using a plastic material.

The support body **911** may include a front support body **911a** and a rear support body **911b** coupled to the rear surface of the front support body **911a**. The reason why the support body is constituted by the front support body and the rear support body is to enhance the strength thereof.

The support plate **914** may be secured to the front surface of the support body **911**.

The support plate **914** may be securely seated in a support plate seat portion **9111**, which is formed in the front surface of the support body **911**. The support plate seat portion **9111** may be concavely formed in the front surface of the support body such that the inner periphery of the support plate seat portion **9111** is shaped so as to correspond to the outer periphery of the support plate **914**.

The support plate seat portion **9111** may be a rectangular-shaped hole, which is formed through the front support body **911a**. When the rear support body **911b** is coupled to the rear surface of the front support body **911a**, the rear support body **911b** shields the rear open portion of the support plate seat portion formed through the front support body, and the front open portion of the support plate seat portion is maintained in the opened state.

The support plate **914** may be secured to the front surface of the rear support body **911b** through the support plate seat portion, and the support plate is received in the support plate seat portion.

The support plate may be configured such that the middle portion in the lateral direction thereof is secured to the front surface of the support body **911** and such that the distance between the support plate and the support body **911** gradually increases from the middle portion of the support plate to both lateral sides thereof.

Both lateral sides of the support plate **914** may be located further forward than the middle portion thereof. The support plate **914** may be configured such that both lateral sides thereof continuously extend from the middle portion thereof in the forward diagonal direction.

In order to prevent a seam line created in the longitudinal direction of trousers from being pressed, the support plate **914** may include a support body recess **913**, which is formed in the height direction of the presser. The support body recess **913** may be formed in the middle portion in the lateral direction of the support plate **914**, and may extend in the height direction when seen from the front of the support plate **914**.

The support plate **914** may be formed of an elastic material, for example, plastic. Therefore, when laundry is placed and pressed between the support part and the press part, the support plate applies pressure to both lateral sides of the laundry, excluding a seam line thereof.

The laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment may include a support spring **915**, which is provided between the support plate **914** and the rear support body **911b**.

The support spring **915** applies elastic force to the rear surface of the support plate **914** in the forward direction of the presser. Therefore, when laundry is pressed between the support part and the press part, the support plate may press the rear surface of the laundry.

FIG. 7 is an exploded perspective view of another embodiment of the presser provided at the laundry treatment apparatus of the present invention. Only differences between the presser of the laundry treatment apparatus according to this embodiment and the presser of the laundry treatment apparatus according to the previous embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 7. Except for the differences set forth below, the configuration of the presser of the laundry treatment apparatus according to the previous embodiment may be applicable to the presser of the laundry treatment apparatus according to this embodiment.

The support part **91** may include a support body **911**, a support plate **914** disposed in front of the support body **911**, and a support part through-hole formed through the support body and the support plate.

The support part through-hole may include a support body through-hole **9111a** and **9111b** formed through the support body **911** and a support plate through-hole **914a** formed through the support plate **914**. The support body through-hole may include a front support body through-hole **9111a** formed through the front support body **911a** and a rear support body through-hole **9111b** formed through the rear support body **911b**.

Steam or hot air, which is supplied to the accommodation space, may be supplied to laundry through the support part through-hole formed through the support part **91**, thereby effectively removing wrinkles from the laundry.

The presser of the laundry treatment apparatus according to this embodiment may include an extension frame **9122**, which is provided separately from the support body **911**, instead of the extension portion **912** as in the previous embodiment.

The extension frame **9122** may be formed of a metal material or a plastic material. The extension frame **9122** may include a first extension frame **9122a**, which is fitted between the front support body **911a** and the rear support body **911b**, and a second extension frame **9122b**, which extends upwards from the first extension frame **9122a**.

There may be provided a hanger hook **92**, which may be removably coupled to the second extension frame **9122b**.

Hereinafter, the presser of the laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment will be described further with reference to FIGS. **5** and **6**.

Referring to FIG. **6**, the press part **93** may be hingedly connected to the support part **91** in order to press laundry placed between the press part **93** and the support part **91**.

The press part **93** may include a press body **931**, which has one side hingedly connected to one side of the support body **911** using a hinge structure **95** and the opposite side functioning as a free end and detachably attached to the opposite side of the support body **911**, and a press body through-hole **933**, which is formed through the press body **931**.

The press body **931** may include a front press body **931a** and a rear press body **931b** coupled to the rear surface of the front press body **931a**. The reason why the press body **931** is constituted by the front press body and the rear press body is to enhance the strength thereof.

Once laundry is supported by the surface of the support body **911** and the press body **931** is locked to the support body **911** by a locking structure **97**, the laundry is pressed between the support body **911** and the press body **931**, and hot air or steam supplied to the accommodation space **31** is supplied to the laundry through the press body through-hole **933**. Accordingly, the laundry treatment apparatus of the present invention has effects of removing wrinkles from laundry and sharpening a crease formed in laundry.

The press body through-hole **933** may be a hole that is formed through the press body **931**.

The press body through-hole may include a front press body through-hole **933a** formed through the front press body **931a** and a rear press body through-hole **933b** formed through the rear press body **931b**. The front press body through-hole **933a** and the rear press body through-hole **933b** may be formed so as to communicate with each other.

FIG. **8** is an enlarged exploded perspective view of a hinge structure, which is denoted by "H" in FIG. **6**. FIG. **9A** is view showing the state in which both end portions of a

hinge shaft are inserted into a hinge bracket and a hinge support portion. FIG. **9B** is a view showing the state in which the hinge bracket is inserted and seated in a bracket seat portion.

Hereinafter, the hinge structure of the laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. **8** and **9**.

The hinge structure **95** connects the support part **91** and the press part **93** such that the press part **93** is hingedly connected to the support part **91**.

The hinge structure **95** may include a hinge shaft **951**, which extends in the height direction of the presser **9**, a hinge support portion **952**, which protrudes a predetermined length from the press part **93**, a first hinge hole **953**, which is formed in the hinge support portion **952** and into which one end portion of the hinge shaft **951** is inserted, a hinge insertion portion **954**, which is concavely formed with a predetermined length in the support part **91** so as to allow the hinge support portion **952** to be inserted thereinto, and a second hinge hole **955**, which is formed in the hinge insertion portion **954** and into which the opposite end portion of the hinge shaft **951** is inserted.

The hinge shaft **951** is formed in a cylindrical shape and is inserted into the first hinge hole and the second hinge hole, thereby allowing the press part to rotate relative to the support part.

The hinge support portion **952** may be formed so as to protrude toward the support part from the left side or the right side of the press part, and may extend a predetermined length in the height direction of the presser.

The first hinge hole **953** may be formed in the upper end and/or the lower end of the hinge support portion **952**. The hinge support portion **952** may have therein an empty space **953a**, which communicates with the first hinge hole **953**. The hinge shaft **951** may be inserted into the empty space **953a** formed in the hinge support portion **952** through the first hinge hole **953**.

The hinge insertion portion **954** may be concavely formed in the left side or the right side of the support part **91**, and may extend a predetermined length in the height direction of the presser.

The hinge insertion portion **954** may include a front hinge insertion portion **954a** formed in the front support body **911a** and a rear hinge insertion portion **954b** formed in the rear support body **911b**. When the front support body and the rear support body are coupled to each other, the front hinge insertion portion and the rear hinge insertion portion communicate with each other, thereby forming the space of the hinge insertion portion **954**.

The second hinge hole **955** may be formed in the inner surface of the hinge insertion portion **954**. The second hinge hole **955** may be formed in the upper end and/or the lower end of the inner surface of the hinge insertion portion **954**. The support part may have therein an empty space **955a**, which communicates with the second hinge hole **955**. The hinge shaft **951** may be inserted into the empty space **955a** formed in the support part through the second hinge hole **955**.

When the hinge support portion **952** of the press part is inserted into the hinge insertion portion **954**, the second hinge hole **955** formed in the hinge insertion portion **954** and the first hinge hole **953** formed in the hinge support portion **952** are aligned with and communicate with each other. The hinge shaft **951** is inserted into the first hinge hole and the second hinge hole, whereby the press part is hingedly connected to the support part.

The laundry treatment apparatus may include a hinge bracket **956**, in which the second hinge hole **955** is formed.

The hinge bracket **956** may be seated in a bracket seat portion **957** formed in the support part. The bracket seat portion **957** is a space formed in the support body **911** so as to allow the hinge bracket **956** to be inserted and seated therein. The bracket seat portion **957** may be formed by engagement of the front support body **911a** and the rear support body **911b**.

The hinge bracket **956** may take the form of a polygonal column. The reason for this is to prevent the hinge bracket inserted in the bracket seat portion from rotating freely.

The second hinge hole **955** may be formed in the surface of the hinge bracket **956** that is oriented toward the hinge support portion. When the hinge bracket **956** is seated in the bracket seat portion **957**, the second hinge hole **955** is exposed to the hinge insertion portion **954**.

In order to fix the hinge bracket **956** to the interior of the bracket seat portion, the hinge bracket **956** may have therein a bracket-fixing hole **956a**.

In the state in which the hinge bracket **956** is seated in the bracket seat portion, a bracket through-hole **956c**, which is formed through the support body, communicates with the bracket-fixing hole **956a**, and a bracket-fixing member **956b** is fastened to the support body through the bracket through-hole **956c** and the bracket-fixing hole **956a**, thereby preventing the hinge bracket **956** from being separated from the bracket seat portion.

The order in which the press part **93** is connected to the support part **91** by the hinge structure **95** is as follows. One end portion of the hinge shaft **951** is inserted into the first hinge hole **53** formed in the hinge support portion **952**, and the opposite end portion of the hinge shaft **951** is inserted into the hinge bracket **956**. The hinge bracket **956** is inserted into the bracket seat portion **957** formed in the support body, and the bracket-fixing member **956b** is fastened to the support body through the bracket through-hole **956c** and the bracket-fixing hole **956a**. As a result, the hinge bracket **956** is securely seated in the bracket seat portion **957** without being separated therefrom.

FIG. **10** is an enlarged exploded perspective view of a locking structure, which is denoted by "L" in FIG. **6**. FIG. **11** is a sectional view of the locking structure. Hereinafter, the locking structure of the laundry treatment apparatus according to the embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. **10** and **11**.

The locking structure **97** is configured to lock the free end of the press part **93** to the support part **91**. The press part locked to the support part presses laundry in order to remove wrinkles from the laundry or sharpen a crease formed in the laundry.

The locking structure **97** may include a locking hinge shaft **972**, which extends in the height direction of the presser **9**, a locking body **974**, which has therein a first locking hinge hole **974d**, into which one end portion of the locking hinge shaft **972** is inserted, and which is configured to rotate relative to the support part **91**, a locking extension portion **974a**, which extends from the locking body **974** toward the press part **93** and which is configured to be locked to the press part **93**, a locking insertion portion **975**, which is concavely formed in the support part **91** so as to allow the locking body **974** to be inserted thereinto, and a second locking hinge hole **976**, which is formed in the locking insertion portion **975** and into which the opposite end portion of the locking hinge shaft **972** is inserted.

The locking hinge shaft **972** is formed in a cylindrical shape and connects the support body **911** and the locking

body **974**. The locking body **974** is connected to the support body **911** such that the locking body **974** rotates relative to the support body **911**.

The locking body **974** may be formed in a cylindrical shape and may have a first locking hinge hole **974d** formed in each of both ends thereof. The locking body **974** may have therein an empty space **974f**, which communicates with the first locking hinge hole **974d**. The locking hinge shaft **972** may be inserted into the empty space **974f** communicating with the first locking hinge hole **974d**.

The locking structure **97** may include a first locking protrusion **974b**, which extends from the distal end of the locking extension portion **974a**. The first locking protrusion **974b** may extend perpendicular to the locking extension portion **974a** so as to be brought into contact with the front surface of the press body **931**. Therefore, the first locking protrusion **974b** pressurizes the front surface of the press body **931**, thereby preventing the press body **931** from rotating away from the support body **911**.

The first locking protrusion **974b** may have a second locking protrusion **974e**, which protrudes toward the front surface of the press body **931** from the portion of the first locking protrusion **974b** that contacts the front surface of the press body **931**. The press body **931** has a locking recess **977** formed in the front surface thereof, into which the second locking protrusion **974e** is selectively fitted. When the free end of the press part completely rotates to the support part, the second locking protrusion **974e** is fitted into the locking recess **977** formed in the front surface of the press body, thereby preventing rotation of the press body.

The locking insertion portion **975** is concavely formed in one side of the support body, and the locking body **974** is rotatably inserted into the locking insertion portion **975**.

The locking insertion portion **975** may include a front locking insertion portion **975a** formed in the front support body **911a** and a rear locking insertion portion **975b** formed in the rear support body **911b**. When the front support body and the rear support body are coupled to each other, the front locking insertion portion and the rear locking insertion portion communicate with each other, thereby forming the space of the locking insertion portion **975**.

The second locking hinge hole **976** may be formed in the upper end and/or the lower end of the inner surface of the locking insertion portion **975**. The second locking hinge hole **976** communicates with an empty space formed in the support body. The opposite end portion of the locking hinge shaft **972** may be inserted into the empty space formed in the support body through the second locking hinge hole.

When the locking body **974** is inserted into the locking insertion portion **975**, the first locking hinge hole **974d** and the second locking hinge hole **976** are aligned with and communicate with each other. The locking hinge shaft **972** may be inserted into the first locking hinge hole and the second locking hinge hole.

Meanwhile, the second locking hinge hole **976** may be formed in a locking bracket **978**, which is an additional element, rather than in the support body. The locking bracket **978** may be provided separately from the support body. The reason for this is to simplify the structure of the support body, thereby simplifying the manufacturing process and reducing manufacturing costs.

Referring to FIGS. **9A** and **9B**, the hinge support portion **952** may correspond to the locking body **974**, the bracket **956** may correspond to the locking bracket **978**, and the hinge shaft **951** may correspond to the locking hinge shaft

13

972. Therefore, the explanation of the bracket 956 in the hinge structure may be applicable to the locking bracket 978 in the locking structure.

The locking bracket 978 may be seated in a locking bracket seat portion 9781 formed in the support body. The locking bracket seat portion 9781 is a recess formed in one side of the support body, which may be formed by engagement of the front support body 911a and the rear support body 911b.

The locking bracket 978 may take the form of a polygonal column, preferably a rectangular column. The inner periphery of the locking bracket seat portion 9781 is shaped so as to correspond to the outer periphery of the locking bracket 978, thereby preventing the locking bracket 978 inserted in the locking bracket seat portion 9781 from undesirably rotating.

In order to fix the locking bracket 978 to the locking bracket seat portion 9781, the locking bracket 978 may have therein a locking-bracket-fixing hole 9782. The locking-bracket-fixing hole 9782 may communicate with a locking-bracket through-hole 9783 formed through the support body. A fixing member may be fastened to the support body through the locking-bracket-fixing hole 9782 and the locking-bracket through-hole 9783, thereby securing the locking bracket 978 to the locking bracket seat portion 9781 so that the locking bracket 978 is prevented from escaping from the locking bracket seat portion 9781.

As is apparent from the above description, the present invention provides a laundry treatment apparatus capable of performing washing, drying, deodorization, sterilization and wrinkle removal of laundry.

In addition, the laundry treatment apparatus according to the present invention removes wrinkles from laundry and applies pressure to laundry so as to sharpen a crease formed in the laundry.

In addition, the laundry treatment apparatus according to the present invention provides a presser that is removably mounted thereto so that the position of the presser may be moved.

In addition, the laundry treatment apparatus according to the present invention provides a presser that is greatly reduced in thickness so that the position of the presser may be efficiently moved in the inner space in the laundry treatment apparatus.

In addition, the laundry treatment apparatus according to the present invention includes a presser that is removably mounted to a laundry support member.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention covers the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A laundry treatment apparatus comprising:

a cabinet having an accommodation space therein to accommodate laundry;

a laundry support member provided in the accommodation space; and

a presser removably hung to the laundry support member and configured to apply pressure to laundry to remove wrinkles,

wherein the presser comprises:

a support part configured to face one surface of the laundry; and

14

a press part hingedly connected to the support part and configured to apply pressure to an opposite surface of laundry,

wherein the support part comprises:

a support body forming the external appearance of the support part; and

a support plate disposed in front of the support body to face the one surface of the laundry and configured to support the one surface of the laundry by elastic force.

2. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support body extends downwardly more than the support plate.

3. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support body extends downwardly more than the press part.

4. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a width of the press part is wider than a width of the support plate.

5. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the presser further comprises:

a support spring provided between the support body and the support plate to apply elastic force to the support plate.

6. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support plate provided with a support body recess formed concavely along a height direction of the presser.

7. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the support body recess extends from a lower end of the support plate to an upper end of the support plate.

8. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the presser further comprises:

a hinge structure provided at the support body and configured to support the presser part.

9. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the hinge structure is spaced apart from the support plate in a width direction.

10. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the presser further comprises:

a locking structure rotatably provided on the support body and configured to selectively secure the presser part to the support part.

11. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the support body comprises:

a support plate seat portion concavely formed in a front surface of the support body, wherein the support plate is seated in the support plate seat portion.

12. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the hinge structure is positioned at a position away from the left or right of the support plate seat portion.

13. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support body comprises:

a front support body; and

a rear support body coupled to a rear surface of the front support body.

14. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the presser further comprises:

an extension frame coupled at upper side of the support body;

a laundry-fixing member disposed at the extension frame, and configured to fix laundry; and

a hanger hook provided at the extension portion, and configured to be hung to the laundry support member.

15. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the extension frame comprises:

15

a first extension frame fitted between the front support body and the rear support body; and
a second extension frame extending upwards from the first extension frame.

16. The laundry treatment apparatus according to claim 1, 5 wherein the presser further comprises:

a separation frame forming a gap between the presser and the inner surface of the accommodation space.

* * * * *

16